

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today praised the Senate's passage of H.R. 4505, legislation to provide parents of deceased servicemembers, commonly referred to as Gold Star Parents, with expanded access to state veterans' homes.

On June 20, 1010, Mitchell voted for, and the House passed, H.R. 4505 by a bipartisan vote of 420 to 0. The legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent yesterday, and it now heads to the President for his signature.

"This legislation is another major step forward in meeting our obligation to our veterans and their families," said Mitchell, who serves as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "We have a duty to ensure that each of these heroes' families have the care they deserve and access to it when they need it."

Currently, only Gold Star Parents who have lost all of their children to service in the Armed Forces are eligible for residency in a state veterans' home. H.R. 4505 expands such eligibility to include Gold Star Parents who have lost any children to service in the Armed Forces.

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